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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9149
INFO RUEHAAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT PRIORITY 2397
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0146
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 4186
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 1299
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA PRIORITY 2070
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 7109
RUEHKD/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY 8277
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0932
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 3129
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 6016
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 2314
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 0636
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2313
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHWSMRC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 002175

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/24/2017
TAGS: ASEC PGOV PK PREL
SUBJECT: MAY 15 KARACHI UPDATE

REF: ISLAMABAD 2157

Classified By: Charge Peter W. Bodde, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) According to Consulate Karachi, as of 1500 Tuesday, April 15 (three days after the outbreak of violence), most Karachi businesses are operating normally and the city, while somber, is returning to normal. Public transportation is operating. The airport and all usual transport routes in Karachi are secure and open. The Karachi port is open and U.S. cargo was despatched to Afghanistan at 0600 local.

¶2. (C) Sporadic violence continues. According to Consulate Karachi, eight people died and seven were wounded overnight. Rangers and unspecified gangs clashed in the Liyari neighborhood; one minor was killed in the crossfire. According to the press, the Sindh government is considering imposing curfews in selected neighborhoods.

¶3. (C) We are unaware of any Karachi-related protests around the country. Embassy contacts report that MQM Members of the National Assembly worry that Pashtun elements may attempt to exact revenge on them. The MQM members are taking unusual steps to protect their personal security, according to our contacts. Contacts add that, when the MQM National Assembly members attempted to shake hands with members from other parties on May 14 (a cultural requirement in Pakistan), the non-MQM members refused to shake hands.

¶4. (U) Newspapers report that the unrest has cost the Pakistani economy 12 billion rupees (USD 200 million).

¶5. (C) We have requested a meeting with MQM leader Dr. Farooq Saatar to discuss the weekend's events.

BODDE